

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



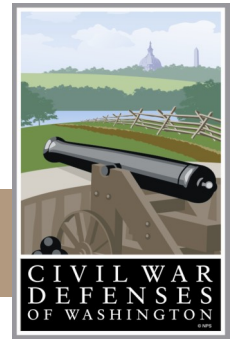
Fort Marcy	Fort Reno	Battleground	Fort Slocum	Fort Mahan	Fort Davis	Battery Carroll
Battery Kemble	Fort DeRussy	National	Fort Totten	Fort Chaplin	Fort Stanton	Fort Greble
Fort Bayard	Fort Stevens	Cemetery	Fort Bunker Hill	Fort Dupont	Fort Ricketts	Fort Foote

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Spring 2011

Vol. II Issue 1

www.nps.gov/cwdw



Monitoring Natural Resources: Forests to Forts

Megan Nortrup, NPS

Fort parks are not only places that tell a national story; they also play valuable ecological roles in an urbanizing landscape. Like the other National Parks in our area, they are home to wildlife and native plants and host a variety of valuable natural resources.

In order to help look after natural resources in our region and to provide accurate and scientifically sound information on park ecosystems, the NPS initiated the National Capital Region Network Inventory & Monitoring (NCRN I&M) program. Every year NCRN I&M field crews gather hundreds of observations at sites spread from Prince William Forest Park in the south to Harpers Ferry National Historic Park in the north, to provide information that helps park staff with planning, management, and interpretation. The resources that NCRN I&M monitors are called “vital signs” because each one tells us something about the broader condition of a park. Vital signs include forest vegetation, invasive/exotic plants, forest birds, stream water quality,

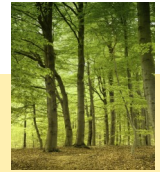


In area national parks wood thrushes are thriving. fish, land cover, white-tailed deer, and amphibians. So far NCRN I&M data has helped several parks in the region begin plans to manage teeming deer populations and has contributed to other park management and planning documents.

Since 2006, NCRN I&M has monitored sites at Fort Dupont, sites along the on the Hiker-Biker Trail, and sites near Fort DeRussy, to assess the condition of forest vegetation, white-tailed deer, and forest birds.

Forest vegetation helps provides food and

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Featured Fort: Fort Mahan

Mahan was the largest of the forts constructed east of the Anacostia, it is an irregular shaped nine sided fort with a 354 yard perimeter. The heavily armed fort controlled the approaches along Bladensburg Road and Benning Road. Despite being finished in 1861 the fort was continuously improved during the war including additions of rifle trenches and the addition of bastionets.

Mahan was one of the last forts abandoned in 1865, but a settlement had begun to grow around the fort, this eventually became the Benning Neighborhood.

Today much of the original earthworks can be seen and Fort Mahan is the northern anchor to the Hiker-Biker Trail; a seven mile bike trail that links many of the forts east of the Anacostia. *Directions: Fort Mahan is located at the 4100 block of Benning Road NE, Washington DC.*



Battleground National Cemetery Rededication

Join us Memorial Day Weekend

We will rededicate the resting place of 41 Union soldiers from the Battle of Fort Stevens and to re-open of the renovated Superintendent's Lodge at Battleground National Cemetery. For more information see page 5.



Commemorating the Sesquicentennial

Mark Maloy, NPS

One hundred and fifty years ago this spring, the first shot of the American Civil War was fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. Over the next four years, the National Park Service (NPS) will mark the commemoration of this event by holding special events and educational programs to explore the sacrifices of the war, the on-going pursuit of equality for all and the solidifying of our nation. For information on events nationwide and on Civil War sites within the system, visit www.nps.gov/civilwar150.

On April 16th, the NPS will be marking Robert E. Lee's resignation from the United States Army. At Arlington House on that date, there will be an evening program on the causes of Virginia's secession and reasons leading to Lee's resignation, and on April 19th, visitors will have to opportunity to be at Arlington House at midnight, 150 years to the minute Lee made “the decision he was born to make.” (www.nps.gov/arho for more details) This summer will be very busy as well: to mark the anniversary of the first balloon launch done by Thaddeus Lowe on the National Mall, the Air and

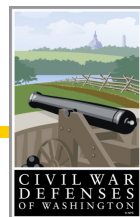
(Continued as **Sesquicentennial** on page 5)

Winter 2011 CWDW Newsletter

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Contributors: Mark Maloy, Alexa Viets, Megan Nortrup, Kevin F. Barry, Thomas Safranek, Jermaine Robinson

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April

All NPS events are **FREE**.
For more info call 202-426-7723

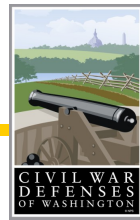
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Civil War Trust Park Day Clean-up 10AM Ft. DeRussy 1:30PM Wildflower hike 2PM Ft. Stevens
3 1PM Ft. Foote	4	5 5:30PM Ft. Dupont	6	7	8	9 9AM Potomac Watershed Clean-up
10 1PM Ft. Dupont	11	12 5:30PM Ft. Dupont	13 11AM Arlington House	14	15	16 1:30PM Wildflower hike 7PM Arlington House
17 1PM Bunker Hill	18	19 5:30PM Ft. Stanton 8PM Arlington House	20	21	22	23 9AM Earth Day Clean-up
24 1PM Ft. Stevens	25	26	27 11AM Arlington House	28	29	30 3PM Jazz Appreciation Concert

May

Volunteer Opportunity	Ranger Talk 1 hour	Ranger led Hike 1 hour	Bike Ride 2 hours (bring your own bike)	Community event
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1PM Battleground National Cemetery	2	3	4	5	6	7 10AM Ft. DeRussy 1:30 PM Fort Mahan hike 2PM Ft. Stevens
8 1PM Ft. Totten	9	10	11 11AM Arlington House	12	13	14
15 1PM Ft. Greble	16	17	18	19	20	21 2PM Life in Civil War Alexandria
22 1PM Fort Bayard	23	24	25 11AM Arlington House	26	27	28 11AM Ft. Dupont
29 1PM Ft. Stanton	30	31				

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June

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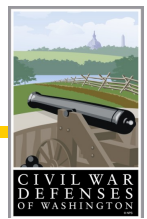
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11AM Arlington House	2	3	4 8:30AM National Trail Day 10AM Ft. DeRussy 2PM Ft. Stevens
5 1PM Ft. Marcy	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 1PM Ft. Foote	13	14	15 11AM Arlington House	16	17	18
19 2PM Theodore Roosevelt Island	20	21	22	23	24	25 11AM Ft. Dupont
26 1PM Ft. Dupont	27	28	29 11AM Arlington House	30	31	

Civil War Defenses of Washington
Spring Calendar
All events are **free** and open to the public

- April 2 2PM Fort Stevens: Prelude to the Civil War -** Discover the political actions that led to the Civil War and the development of a new fortified capitol city. Parking on street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).
- April 3 1PM Fort Foote: Through the Ages -** Join a park Ranger to learn about the continually evolving defenses of Washington from 1812 to the present day. Parking on site (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD)
- April 5 5:30PM Fort Dupont: Hiker/Biker Trail Series - Segment I,** This hike will cover the Northern section of the trail from Fort Dupont to Fort Mahan. Meet at the Fort Dupont earthworks. ~ 4 mile hike (4160 Alabama Ave. SE Washington, DC).
- April 9 9AM-1PM multiple locations: Potomac Watershed Clean-up -** Help the National Park Service make your Park a better place for recreation and help the environment. Please come out and do your planet some good. Call for more information (202)426-7723.
- April 10 1PM Fort Dupont: 1 of 75,000 -** At the beginning of the Civil War President Lincoln made a call for 75,000 volunteers to help the Army quell what everyone though would be a brief rebellion. Join a Ranger at the Fort Dupont earthworks. Parking on site (4160 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).

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(Continued from **Events** on page 3)



April 12 5:30PM Fort Dupont: Hiker/Biker Trail Series - Segment II - This hike will cover the central section of the trail from Fort Dupont to Branch Ave. Meet at the Fort Dupont earthworks. ~ 4 mile hike (4160 Alabama Ave. SE Washington, DC).



April 13 11AM-2PM Arlington House: Learn about the strategic importance of Arlington House during the Civil War. Parking available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center (Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA).



April 16 1:30PM Benning Road Library: Wildflower Identification Hike to Fort Mahan - See April 2nd information.



April 16 7PM Arlington House: Lee's Great Decision – Join Rangers and author Elizabeth Pryor at Arlington House for talks, tours, music, and learn about the momentous decision Robert E. Lee made 150 years ago. Call for reservations (703)235-1530. Parking available at Arlington House Ranger Station inside the cemetery (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA).



April 17 1PM Fort Bunker Hill: The Enemy Within, Maryland Confederates - Visit a fort that protected Washington from the Old Line State and learn about Marylanders with divided loyalties and the events that tested the strength of the Union. Parking on street (1300 block Otis St NE, Washington, DC).



April 19 5:30PM Fort Stanton: Hiker/Biker Trail Series Segment III - hike the Southern section of the trail from Fort Stanton to Branch Ave. Park at Anacostia Museum ~4 mile hike (1901 Fort Place, SE Washington, DC).



April 19 8PM Arlington House: Robert E. Lee Vigil – Commemorate the resignation of Robert E. Lee with tours, dramatic readings of his letters, and enjoy the view of Washington at night. Call for reservations (703) 235-1530. Parking available at Arlington House Ranger Station inside the cemetery (Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA).



April 23 9AM Fort Dupont: Earth Day Clean Up – Celebrate Earth Day by exploring the trails and helping clean up the park. Parking at Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).



A CWDW Ranger with visitors at Arlington House.



April 24 1PM Fort Stevens: Signs of Reconciliation - After 4 years of the Civil War the nation patched itself together in a number of ways. Join a Ranger for a 1 mile walk from the earthworks of Fort Stevens to Battleground National Cemetery to discover just how many places this legacy of reconciliation can still be seen. Parking on street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).



April 27 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 13th information.



April 30 3PM-PPM Fort Dupont: Jazz Appreciation Month Programs - The National Park Service and the Smithsonian Museum are partnering to bring Jazz history and music to visitors at Fort Dupont Park. Enjoy and learn about jazz music, its history and how it influenced the country. Special guest performances, discussions and activities will be held throughout the day. Parking at the Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).



May 1 1PM Battleground National Cemetery: The Battle of Fort Stevens and the Price of Freedom - Learn about the momentous Battle of Fort Stevens and the cost in human lives while in a cemetery containing the remains of men who died defending Washington. Parking on street (6625 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, DC).



May 7 10AM DeRussy: Fort DeRussy Hike - see April 2nd Information.



May 7 1:30PM Benning Road Library: Civil War Defenses of Washington Hike - This will be an exciting, and engaging discussion about times of the Civil War and Civil War fortifications, leading to a Ranger led hike to Fort Mahan. Come prepared to have fun, and experience your National Parks. Parking on site (3935 Benning Rd. NE Washington, DC)



May 7 2PM Fort Stevens: See April 2nd information.



May 8 1PM Fort Totten: A Tactical Civil War - With advancement in weaponry the tactics of war changed, Join a Ranger for a talk at Fort Totten and learn how the generals of the Civil War adapted to the changing battlefield. Parking on Site (4807 Fort Totten Dr NE, Washington, DC)



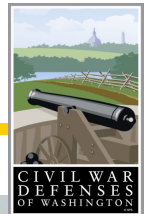
May 11 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 13th information.



May 15 1PM Fort Greble: After the War -With the end of the Civil War the land that the forts built upon were returned to their owners until a prominent Washingtonians saw a chance to leave a legacy of parks for future generations. Parking on site (200 Elmira St. SE, Washington, DC).













(Continued as **Events** on page 5)

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The view of the Pentagon and Arlington House from Fort Stanton.

(Continued from **Events** on page 4)

-  **May 21 2PM Old Town Alexandria: Life in Civil War Alexandria** - Discover how Alexandria was transformed by the Civil War at this large living history event on the weekend of the 150th anniversary of Alexandria's occupation by Union troops . Parking on street (Market Square, Alexandria, VA)
-  **May 22 1PM Fort Bayard: Civil War Proving Ground** - The battles of the Mexican American War produced the officers that would lead both sides into and out of the Civil War. Join a Ranger to learn about these men and the war that taught them to lead. Parking on site(4665 Fessenden St. NW, Washington, DC)
-  **May 25 11AM-2PM Arlington House:** See April 13th information.
-  **May 28 11AM Fort Dupont: A Capital View** - Join a Ranger led 5 mile mountain bike ride to visit a number of forts and take in the history and the views. Parking at Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).
-  **May 29 1PM Fort Stanton: Escape of an Assassin** - Join a Ranger at Fort Stanton to learn how John Wilkes Booth fled the capital after the assassination of Lincoln. Parking on site (1901 Fort Place SE, Washington DC).
-  **Memorial Day Weekend @ Battleground National Cemetery Rededication** - Join us as we remember the 41 Union soldiers buried here and re-open the historic
-  **June 1 11AM-2PM Arlington House:** See April 13th information.
-  **June 4 8:30AM-1PM : National Trails Day** - Help the National Park Service make your Public Trails a better place for recreation and help the environment. Call for location in your community.(202)426-7723
-  **June 4 10AM DeRussy: Fort DeRussy Hike** - see April 2nd Information.
-  **June 4 2PM Fort Stevens:** See April 2nd information.
-  **June 5 1PM Fort Marcy: Occupied Virginia** - Hear stories about what it was like for Northern Virginians when Federal troops surged across the Potomac and began constructing the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Parking on site (Northbound George Washington Memorial Parkway, McLean, VA).
-  **June 12 1PM Fort Foote: Ironclads and Aircraft Carriers** - The Civil War was a time of leaps forward in the
- (Continued as **Events** on page 6)

(Continued from **Sesquicentennial** on page 1)

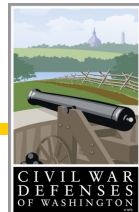
Space Museum, will be having a Civil War Family Day on June 11 about "Mr. Lincoln's Air Force." (www.nasm.si.edu for more details)

In 2011, the largest of the planned commemorative events in our area will be the 150th anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas in July. There will be living histories, special presentations and special tours from July 21st to July 24th. (www.nps.gov/mana for more details) The Civil War Defenses of Washington will mark the 150th anniversary of the construction of the forts around Washington this fall with a living history program at Fort Marcy on September 24th. Throughout the year the Civil War Defenses of Washington will also be leading Ranger led tours of the forts, focusing on events in the year 1861. Visit us online (www.nps.gov/cwdw) and on Facebook to receive all the upcoming information. Join us for as many of these special events as possible to explore this pivotal time in our history and the continuing road to freedom in our nation's history.



A group of volunteers plant a trees at Fort Mahan.

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The Civil War Online

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Civil War 150 events @ www.nps.gov/civilwar150

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technology of war. Take this chance to meet with a Ranger, see the massive guns at Fort Foote and learn about the ships of the Civil War Navy. Parking on site (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD)



June 15 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 13th information.



June 19 2PM Theodore Roosevelt Island: Pathways to Freedom - Learn about the African-American perspective of the Civil War and the transition many made from slavery to freedom. Learn about contrabands, freedmen and US Colored Troops. Parking on site (Northbound George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA).



June 25 11AM Fort Dupont: Topography of Defense - Join a Ranger for a 5 mile mountain bike ride and discover how DC took advantage of the landscape to defend the capital then, and offer amazing views now. Parking at the Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC).



June 26 1PM Fort Dupont: The Weeks Before First Manassas - Come to the Fort Dupont earthworks and gain an understanding of the atmosphere culminating in the first major battle of the Civil War. Parking on site (4160 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).



June 29 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 13th information.



The view of Downtown from the forts east of the Anacostia.

***Editor's note:** This issue is the first of Volume II. In the future, volumes will consist of 4 issues published on a quarterly basis throughout the year keeping subscribers up to date of CWDW news and events.

(Continued from **Forest** on page 1)

shelter for wildlife and helps filter the air. To monitor the condition of forest vegetation the I&M "veg" crew gather information on the size, species type, and health of forest trees, shrubs, and herbs. They also check for the presence of forest pests (like gypsy moth) and the presence of invasive plants. Their monitoring produces a huge volume of information on forest condition, for example, the Emerald Ash Borer which has decimated ash tree populations in the Midwestern United States, has not yet been detected in any NCRN monitoring plots.

Crews also monitor white-tailed deer to calculate density of deer populations for each park. Currently, all regional parks have or have had deer density levels that indicate high deer abundances that interfere with forest regeneration and associated wildlife habitat. Monitoring data also indicates National Parks in our region host relatively high numbers of forest birds whose national populations are in decline, such as the wood thrush, a declining species which also happens to be the official bird of Washington, DC.

These efforts are just a small part of what the NCRN I&M program is doing to ensure that we have a clear picture of natural conditions in our parks. The information gathered by our teams is a part of our collective effort to conserve these special places—our National Parks—unimpaired for future generations.

To find out more about NCRN I&M activities, visit the Civil War Defenses of Washington website or contact Megan Nortrup at Megan_Nortrup@nps.gov



A volunteer trail crew works together to build a bridge over a stream along one of the CWDW Trails. Call Fort Dupont for information on becoming a volunteer in a CWDW park call (202)426-7723.



Have Ideas? Contact Us!

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